

# News

U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
PO Box 193766  
San Francisco, CA. 94119-3766



---

**CONTACT:**

**Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373**

**Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403**

**Internet address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ro9news.htm>**

**Fax-On-Demand (415) 975-4567 -- Code:# 9505**

**BLS 00-46**

**FOR RELEASE:**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2000**

## **RESULTS OF PAY SURVEY FOR THE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA METROPOLITAN AREA**

Workers in the Anchorage, Alaska metropolitan area averaged \$18.87 per hour during November 1999, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Stanley Stephenson reported that white-collar workers averaged \$21.14 per hour and accounted for 65 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar workers averaged \$17.32 per hour and represented 15 percent of those surveyed, while the remaining 21 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$12.07 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. It excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. The survey studied 104 firms representing 55,900 workers in the Anchorage metropolitan area and consists of Anchorage Borough (County). Approximately 70 percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Anchorage metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for more than 50 detailed occupations. (See table 2.) Among white-collar workers, engineers, architects and surveyors averaged \$34.97 per hour, registered nurses \$24.42, secretaries \$14.49, and bank tellers \$9.17. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$24.84 per hour, truck drivers at \$15.83, stock handlers and baggers at \$9.56 per hour. In the service occupations, cooks averaged \$11.22 per hour, nursing aids, orderlies and attendants \$11.05, and maids and housemen averaged \$9.66.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 3 and 4.) For example, full-time employees in the Anchorage area averaged \$20.08 per hour, while part-timers earned \$11.36. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$20.35 per hour; while non-union employees earned \$15.36. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.96 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$19.69. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job. These selected characteristics allow for comparison of occupations with similar requirements.

## National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, November 1999 (continued)

Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program. The survey increases the amount of wage data available to businesses, employees, and the public, and reduces the time required of business establishments responding to BLS compensation surveys

### **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999, (Bulletin 3100-46). Copies of survey tables are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm> and from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service, Ready Facts, by dialing 415-975-4567 and requesting document 9505. For further information or personal assistance contact the San Francisco Regional Office at 415-975-4350. Bulletins may be purchased for \$6.00 from the BLS Publications Sales Center, 230 South Dearborn Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60604. Telephone orders using MasterCard or Visa credit cards are accepted at 312-353-1880 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Central Time.

Table 1. Summary: Mean hourly earnings(1) and weekly hours by selected characteristics, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999

Worker and establishment characteristics	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>
	Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)	
Total.....	\$18.87	3.2	35.3	\$17.04	4.4	34.6	\$23.12	3.9	37
Worker characteristics:(4)									
White-collar occupations(5).....	21.14	3.6	36.2	19.88	5.2	36.0	23.32	4.4	36.6
Professional specialty and technical.....	28.04	5.4	34.3	30.70	10.6	33.4	26.05	3.7	35.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	30.68	5.3	39.6	31.58	5.6	40.1	-	-	-
Sales.....	12.61	6.7	35.5	12.62	6.7	35.5	-	-	-
Administrative support.....	14.01	3.2	37.1	12.93	2.4	36.4	16.23	6.4	38.6
Blue-collar occupations(5).....	17.32	5.8	36.0	16.89	6.5	35.7	20.03	11.3	38.7
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	23.82	5.5	39.2	23.53	6.2	39.1	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	11.78	11.9	32.8	11.78	11.9	32.8	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	15.57	15.8	35.5	15.39	17.4	35.2	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.29	6.0	34.0	11.64	5.1	33.4	-	-	-
Service occupations(5).....	12.07	9.9	31.8	9.28	3.9	30.5	23.55	8.2	38.8
Full time.....	20.08	3.4	39.0	18.46	4.8	39.1	23.23	3.9	38.9
Part time.....	11.36	5.9	22.1	10.93	6.1	23.0	-	-	-
Union.....	22.05	5.1	37.0	20.12	13.9	33.7	23.01	4.1	38.9
Nonunion.....	17.08	3.9	34.4	16.40	4.1	34.7	23.58	9.9	31.1
Time.....	19.12	3.3	35.4	17.25	4.7	34.7	23.12	3.9	37.0
Incentive.....	14.73	10.8	33.3	14.73	10.8	33.3	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary: Mean hourly earnings(1) and weekly hours by selected characteristics, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999

Worker and establishment characteristics	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>
	Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)	
Establishment characteristics:									
Goods producing.....	(6)	(6)	(6)	\$27.47	7.4	38.8	(6)	(6)	(6)
Service producing.....	(6)	(6)	(6)	16.32	4.7	34.3	(6)	(6)	(6)
50-99 workers(7).....	\$15.93	9.8	36.5	15.96	9.8	36.5	-	-	-
100-499 workers.....	16.54	6.7	34.4	16.54	6.7	34.4	-	-	-
500 workers or more.....	22.04	3.4	35.6	19.69	6.8	33.0	\$23.16	3.9	37.0

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and holidays; nonproduction bonuses; and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

3 Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

4 Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining. Wages of time workers are based solely on hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

5 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

6 Classification of establishments into goods-producing and service-producing industries applies to private industry only.

7 Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 2. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
All.....	\$18.87	3.2	\$17.04	4.4	\$23.12	3.9
All excluding sales.....	19.54	3.3	17.75	4.8	23.13	3.9
White collar.....	21.14	3.6	19.88	5.2	23.32	4.4
White collar excluding sales.....	22.59	3.6	22.04	5.6	23.33	4.4
Professional specialty and technical.....	28.04	5.4	30.70	10.6	26.05	3.7
Professional specialty.....	27.24	3.5	27.78	5.6	26.89	4.3
Engineers, architects, and surveyors.....	34.97	4.9	34.97	4.9	-	-
Engineers, n.e.c.....	41.20	6.9	41.20	6.9	-	-
Mathematical and computer scientists.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural scientists.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health related.....	23.98	4.0	24.22	4.3	-	-
Registered nurses.....	24.42	5.1	24.83	5.5	-	-
Teachers, college and university.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, except college and university.....	28.04	4.1	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social scientists and urban planners.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawyers and judges.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.....	23.00	20.4	28.29	9.9	-	-
Technical.....	30.46	18.0	37.26	26.5	-	-
Science technicians, n.e.c.....	20.01	15.9	-	-	-	-
Airplane pilots and navigators.....	113.58	29.8	113.58	29.8	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	30.68	5.3	31.58	5.6	-	-
Executives, administrators, and managers.....	33.92	5.3	34.42	6.3	-	-
Financial managers.....	32.13	11.3	32.13	11.3	-	-
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.....	36.79	10.6	39.40	9.6	-	-
Management related.....	22.98	8.1	24.14	8.0	-	-
Management related, n.e.c.....	25.08	6.9	23.92	16.0	-	-
Sales.....	12.61	6.7	12.62	6.7	-	-
Supervisors, sales.....	18.17	8.0	18.17	8.0	-	-
Sales workers, other commodities.....	9.45	8.6	9.45	8.6	-	-
Cashiers.....	8.94	7.0	8.94	7.1	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	\$14.01	3.2	\$12.93	2.4	\$16.23	6.4
Secretaries.....	14.49	2.7	14.54	4.0	-	-
Receptionists.....	10.13	3.4	10.13	3.4	-	-
Order clerks.....	13.38	6.1	13.38	6.1	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks.....	12.98	4.5	12.98	4.5	-	-
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks.....	13.68	12.6	13.68	12.6	-	-
Stock and inventory clerks.....	17.11	18.1	-	-	-	-
General office clerks.....	13.11	3.1	11.90	7.5	-	-
Bank tellers.....	9.17	3.0	9.17	3.0	-	-
Administrative support, n.e.c.....	18.58	12.2	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
Blue collar.....	17.32	5.8	16.89	6.5	20.03	11.3
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	23.82	5.5	23.53	6.2	-	-
Electricians.....	24.84	8.5	-	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	11.78	11.9	11.78	11.9	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	15.57	15.8	15.39	17.4	-	-
Truck drivers.....	15.83	6.4	15.83	6.4	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.29	6.0	11.64	5.1	-	-
Stock handlers and baggers.....	9.56	8.7	9.56	8.7	-	-
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.....	12.04	9.8	12.04	9.8	-	-
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.....	13.22	6.6	13.22	6.6	-	-
Service.....	\$12.07	9.9	\$9.28	3.9	\$23.55	8.2
Protective service.....	22.75	8.8	10.94	5.5	24.86	7.2
Guards and police, except public service.....	14.38	15.4	10.94	5.5	-	-
Food service.....	8.03	4.1	8.03	4.1	-	-
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.....	6.36	3.5	6.36	3.5	-	-
Waiters and waitresses.....	5.90	1.9	5.90	1.9	-	-
Other food service.....	9.02	6.9	9.02	6.9	-	-
Cooks.....	11.22	3.5	11.22	3.5	-	-
Food preparation, n.e.c.....	7.95	5.2	7.95	5.2	-	-
Health service.....	11.33	3.4	11.33	3.4	-	-
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants.....	11.05	3.4	11.05	3.4	-	-
Cleaning and building service.....	10.86	10.8	9.98	8.2	-	-
Maids and housemen.....	9.66	1.6	9.66	1.6	-	-
Janitors and cleaners.....	10.74	13.6	9.48	8.1	-	-
Personal service.....	10.89	7.0	10.89	7.0	-	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

3 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

4 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a confidence interval around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 3. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Part-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Union <sup>4</sup>	Nonunion <sup>4</sup>	Time <sup>5</sup>	Incentive <sup>5</sup>
All occupations.....	\$20.08	\$11.36	\$22.05	\$17.08	\$19.12	\$14.73
All excluding sales.....	20.74	11.83	22.44	17.71	19.66	15.57
White collar.....	21.77	14.39	23.81	19.69	21.52	15.46
White-collar excluding sales.....	23.00	17.19	24.52	21.35	22.65	-
Professional specialty and technical.....	28.51	23.24	31.15	25.25	27.97	-
Professional specialty.....	27.54	24.46	28.39	26.26	27.14	-
Technical.....	31.33	-	38.69	21.94	30.46	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	30.68	-	-	31.73	30.77	-
Sales.....	13.61	8.05	10.06	12.96	11.97	13.99
Administrative support, including clerical.....	14.28	11.00	16.39	12.51	14.04	-
Blue collar.....	18.61	10.88	20.35	15.36	17.71	13.41
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	23.84	-	25.87	22.32	25.63	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	12.72	-	-	12.26	12.13	-
Transportation and material moving.....	16.09	-	21.95	11.56	15.69	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	13.54	9.80	13.71	11.33	12.35	-
Service.....	13.61	8.58	17.46	9.00	12.09	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

4 Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

5 Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 4. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) private industry, National Compensation Survey, Anchorage, AK, November 1999

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers <sup>3</sup>	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations.....	\$17.04	\$15.96	\$17.38	\$16.54	\$19.69
All excluding sales.....	17.75	16.59	18.10	17.35	19.90
White collar.....	19.88	19.86	19.88	19.39	20.91
White-collar excluding sales.....	22.04	22.39	21.94	22.41	21.24
Professional specialty and technical.....	30.70	28.78	31.44	34.64	-
Professional specialty.....	27.78	32.98	25.61	25.61	-
Technical.....	37.26	17.40	43.66	53.57	29.17
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	31.58	29.63	32.17	30.04	35.03
Sales.....	12.62	12.16	12.77	12.71	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	12.93	12.87	12.95	13.37	12.28
Blue collar.....	16.89	13.84	17.70	17.28	19.54
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	23.53	19.12	24.42	22.89	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	11.78	11.53	11.92	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	15.39	14.22	15.65	16.06	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	11.64	10.17	12.10	12.17	-
Service.....	9.28	8.72	9.51	8.96	12.39

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

4 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.